

JULY, 1943

The International Teamster



Official Magazine
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS . . . CHAUFFEURS
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS
OF AMERICA

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We do not accept advertising



Morgan Is Still Unfair

STORIES have been circulated by the Morgan Packing Company to the big chain stores and to other large customers and distributors of canned vegetables that they have settled their trouble with the Teamsters' Union of Indianapolis; in other words, that there is no labor trouble now in the Morgan canning plants of Indiana.

These rumors or stories are absolutely false and deliberately misleading.

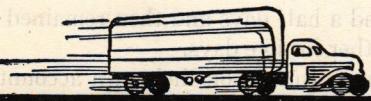
There is no union labor recognized, as far as we know, by the Morgan Packing Company. We are positive, however, that their truck drivers, helpers and warehousemen are absolutely non-union, as before.

Because of the war and because canned goods are rationed and because our soldiers and our sailors need those food products, the Teamsters' Union has not prosecuted the "We Don't Patronize" movement so strongly or as diligently as before Pearl Harbor. We have not insisted that our members prevent the handling of those canned goods. This is a sacrifice we are making for our country and for the world.

However, we advise those interested that when this war ends and when our boys have returned home, we will prosecute again our educational campaign of "We Don't Patronize" against the notoriously unfair, labor-hating Morgan Packing Company which is so friendly to the Republican party of Indiana. Morgan was at one time state chairman of that party and is now Republican chairman of the ninth congressional district.

By the GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
I. B. T. C. W. & H.

The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER




Official Magazine

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
CHAUFFEURS . . . WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS

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Number 8

Tobin Confers With Churchill

— Discuss Heavy Penalties for War Strikers

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

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IN A private conference with Prime Minister Churchill in the British Embassy on Sunday evening, May 23, 1943, we discussed many phases of the labor situation in our country and also in England.

I asked him if he was worrying, during his absence, about the labor situation over there.

He answered: "Absolutely not. My labor troubles are in the hands of Ernest Bevin, in whom I have the greatest confidence and who has done a masterful job. I gave him full responsibility and power on the labor situation and I have every reason to be proud — as have the people of England — of his achievements."

I said to him: "Of course we have a different situation in our country. Our people are descendants of many races, which must be assimilated. Besides, many of our trade unions and their leaders have come into being in recent years. But I think as a whole we are doing a fairly good job in our country."

His answer was: "I fully understand the labor situation here and I have the greatest admiration for what labor is doing in the United States and I am quite hopeful that as the war goes on and as the struggle continues, the American workers will continue

to produce; to do the job. In other words, I know America and American workers will do their share of the work."

I then asked him: "Mr. Prime Minister, when I was in England I noticed there were some very few individuals who had been prosecuted for violation of the Defense Regulation Act dealing with workers guilty of absenteeism. Have you had much need of enforcement of this act, which provides for penalties for unlawful strikes, etc.?"

"Not much," he answered. "There is a little now and then, but it is very little. That reminds me that since I left England there has been one case. I shall mail you the newspaper clipping from the *London Times* of May 14, dealing with that case."

He sent me that clipping on his return to England and because of its general interest here, the clipping is reprinted as follows:

"STRIKERS FINED £25 EACH

"WAR WORK DELAYED

"Coventry, May 13.

"Fines of £25 each, with costs, were imposed at Coventry today upon 93 skilled sheet metal workers under Defense Regulation 58 A.A., for taking part in a trade dispute which was not reported to the Ministry of Labor and National Service as required by this Regulation on April 13.

"Mr. G. W. Moore, prosecuting for the Ministry, stated that all the defendants were employed by the Radiator and Press Work Company, Limited, whose sole output was for war work. This was an old-established firm, whose relations with its employees until last month had been most amicable, a large number of the defendants having worked there for many years.

"After a number of men had been directed to these works by the Ministry in April a deputation of these newcomers interviewed the management on April 13 and demanded the immediate payment of a 50 per cent increase on all piecework rates.

"When told that this could only be dealt with by the tribunal provided by the Ministry the deputation called a meeting of the men, who conducted a sit-down strike for two and a half days and then remained out altogether for five days.

"They resumed on their own account on April 22, but the stoppage meant that deliveries of petrol tanks and radiators urgently required for 2,000 Army vehicles had been held up during this period. The average wage paid defendants was £10 a week.

"Mr. John Varley, for the defendants, said they were all loyal Britishers who had authorized him to say that they sincerely regretted this incident which arose through frayed nerves caused by working long hours in trying conditions.

"The men also pledged themselves not to do anything of the kind again. The trouble arose when men were directed to the works from government factories where the wages were much higher, in one instance 2s. an hour higher.

"It was common knowledge, Mr. Varley continued, that wages in government factories had got out of hand to such extent that a serious position arose when skilled or semi-skilled men were moved from these factories to old-established and smaller works.

"There had been scores of small strikes in Coventry where no proceedings had been taken under this regulation, which was three years old.

"In consequence he maintained that it was the *laissez faire* of the Minister himself that had allowed this very important regulation to slip into disuse. The Minister had now moved suddenly but it was a pity that he had not done so before.

"The Chairman, Alderman O. M. Flinn, said the bench regarded this as a very serious case. Defendants had held up important war production when machinery had been provided for dealing with any request for increased wages. While taking into consideration Mr. Varley's statements, the magis-

trates felt that the majority of the defendants, old employees of this firm, had been grievously misled."

You will notice that each of those workers was fined a sum equal to about \$101 in our money. They could have been imprisoned if the court desired, but on their promise not to be guilty again of such an offense and on their pleadings for sympathetic consideration of their case, the court only levied a fine.

I was informed later by other British sources that nearly all of the labor leaders of England approved the decision of the court and condemned the action of the strikers.

I wonder what the workmen in our country would think of a court that fined them \$100 each and gave them six months' imprisonment for violation of a law by going out on an unauthorized strike or by ignoring a governmental tribunal having power to handle labor and capital grievances.

Of course we have not come to that yet, but don't be too sure that we may not come to it because of the action of some individuals and some labor leaders who grandstand by going along with their membership, giving them the wrong advice and encouraging them in

stoppages of work which are a serious embarrassment to the prosecution of the war.

Let it be said here, however, that 99 per cent of the international union officials have kept their pledge and have done everything to support our government by the prevention of strikes.

We are, however, cursed with some weak-kneed local officials who should never have been elected to office, and who haven't the red blood in them to take the right stand at the right time.

This is true in some instances, and in other instances we have the so-called tricky leader who is building up his own chances within the local and is betraying his government by sneakily doing nothing to enforce the laws of his union and the requests of his government.

Some of those are known to the government. Others will be known before the war is over. Not only are we fighting to help our people who are at the battlefield, but our freedom and safety and our right to exist under our form of government is involved in this question.

Yes, you can hold a man up with a gun and get his money, but don't ever forget that that man will return for an accounting when you do not have the gun.

Pittsburgh Teamster Dies in Jap Prison Camp

To THE Bakery Drivers' Local Union No. 485 of Pittsburgh came the tragic news that it suffered the first casualty of the war in the death of George F. Connelly.

Brother Connelly has been a member of the Bakery Drivers' Union since 1938, and before he entered the service of the United States government, had been employed at the Liberty Baking Company and the Ward Baking Company. And while still employed at the Ward Baking Company, it became quite evident to him, as it did to many others of us, that war was imminent.

On September 23, 1941, he enlisted in the

United States Army for immediate overseas duty. He was in the Philippines at their fall. The first report his union had, he was missing in action. But later we were informed that Brother Connelly had died in a Jap prison camp May 21, 1943.

"The Bakery Drivers' Union has taken recognition of the supreme sacrifice of Brother Connelly, and feel that the International Union would also like to receive such reports of any Teamsters who have died in the service of their country," wrote Alfred J. Mascaro, president of Local No. 485, to International headquarters.

Machinists Injure Themselves

— Teamsters May Hold Garage Workers

THE International Association of Machinists has decided to cease paying per capita tax to the American Federation of Labor on and after June 1, 1943.

We deeply and sincerely regret this action on the part of the Machinists because we are satisfied from years of experience that such action will not bring the desired results to the Machinists' Union.

Their controversy with the Carpenters, the Engineers and the Streetcar Men will not be relieved by their withdrawal from the Federation.

Took All Boeing Employees

Such action on their part will result in the loss of considerable prestige within the organized labor movement, and of course by withdrawing from the field of controversy they leave the field open to those with whom they are in dispute.

Nothing could be more injurious to the International Association of Machinists at this time, as we see the picture, than their action in withdrawing when we need cooperation and unity and more and more federation of unions.

The Machinists' Union for the year 1932 averaged 70,700 members; in 1940 they averaged 190,000 members; in 1943, for the eight months ending May 1, 1943, they averaged 356,750 members.

And still the Machinists' Union, through its president, Harvey Brown, claims the organizations above named are deliberately and willfully encroaching upon their jurisdiction.

It is well known to everyone that the Machinists' Union in the airplane manufacturing plants has taken in almost everyone in the employment, especially in the Boeing plant in Seattle, Washington.

Of course they say that this was neces-

sary, otherwise they could not get certain recognitions and there might have been an attempt made by the CIO to capture some part of the employment.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has done everything in its power to bring about a better understanding between the Carpenters and the Machinists.

In the last meeting of the executive council, held the latter part of May of this year, it all boiled down to whether or not a decision would be sent out in telegram form to anyone inquiring as to a certain jurisdiction decision made by the American Federation of Labor several years ago in the controversy between the Carpenters and the Machinists, dealing then with millwright machinery.

First the executive council decided some years ago to send out the telegram as requested by the Machinists.

Afterwards the Carpenters came before the council and protested the sending out of the telegram, but agreed that the whole controversy be sent out in pamphlet form. The Machinists contended that the pamphlet was too long and was difficult to understand.

Action is Disgusting

The council, by an almost unanimous vote, decided to send out the whole history of the controversy, which extended back to a decision made in the Philadelphia convention of the Federation in 1914. So the controversy has reached a disappointing ending, with the decision of the Machinists to cease paying dues to the federation — in other words, withdrawing their affiliation with the federation.

Isn't such an action discouraging, to say the least, in this dark hour confronting the whole world, when the trade union move-

ment of the world has almost been destroyed, with the exception of the United States and Great Britain, when men are giving their lives and their bodies have been mangled and destroyed, homes wrecked and children left homeless, when legislators in Washington and in several states are enacting legislation to crucify and cripple labor and deprive it of its freedoms?

Isn't it discouraging and somewhat disgusting to have an international union with such a brilliant history, that has made such wonderful progress in recent years, decide to withdraw from the great membership of the American Federation of Labor and go on as an independent union, or as a "lone wolf" in the field of organized labor?

Teamsters Took It on Chin

We charge no one with any kind of ulterior motive and we believe that the officers of the Machinists' Union are sincere in their belief that they have been aggrieved, but that is not sufficient reason for them to take such drastic action, and history will prove—unfortunately too late—that their action in dividing labor and isolating themselves was a grievous mistake in judgment.

The Teamsters have had their controversies over jurisdiction in recent years but they have never withdrawn from the Federation since they received their charter in 1899, forty-four years ago.

In one decision handed down by three men, the heads of three building trades organizations, in a dispute between the Teamsters and the Engineers over motor-driven machinery such as tractors, caterpillars and other similar equipment, one part of the decision stated in substance, "All of the points contended for by the Engineers are granted."

In other words, all the questions in dispute were settled in favor of the Engineers—a 100 per cent decision against the Teamsters.

This decision was given out by President Hutcheson of the Carpenters, Secretary Gray of the Bricklayers, and Daniel Tracy,

president of the Electrical Workers at that time.

The Teamsters, up to that time, had the men who operated tractors and machinery around large construction jobs. We lost it all. It was a body blow in many respects to the Teamsters' Union, but we did not withdraw from the federation or from the building trades, and we have endeavored to carry out the decision as far as it is possible to do so.

No one ever conceived the thought years ago that a man who drove a tractor or caterpillar or some similar machine would be classified as an engineer. Farm laborers drive machines of this kind. But the answer was not to withdraw from the building trades or the federation because of such decision. The answer was to abide by the decision and endeavor to remedy the situation as the years went on.

The reason for referring to this decision is to endeavor to show to the Machinists and others that may be involved later, the inconsistency and the unjust attitude of any organization that believes it should withdraw when matters take place within the council or the convention of the federation that are displeasing to them.

Truly we can say that such actions are not, in our judgment, expressive of the rank and file in their great hunger and thirst for unity and harmony at this dangerous period in the history of the toilers of the nation.

It's a Dual Union Now

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has had a national agreement with the Machinists' Union relative to garage employees.

This has been in existence for several years. It was made with the Machinists' Union with the distinct understanding that they were an American Federation of Labor organization.

Since severing its AFL affiliation, the Machinists' Union does not deserve any different consideration than that accorded any independent or dual organization. We

have put thousands of garage workers into the Machinists' Union under the name of auto mechanics. Most of them were not mechanics but handy men.

If it is well for the Machinists to claim and hold in membership all employees in the plants of the Boeing Company, certainly it is not inconsistent — and it may be necessary — for the Teamsters to hold in membership all those working in the garages where men are employed to take care of our trucks.

Any organization that has advanced in membership from 70,000 in 1932 to 356,000 in 1943 certainly cannot say it has been held back very much by any decision of the American Federation of Labor.

Anyone can take victory with a smile but it takes a strong man or organization to still smile and carry on even when they lose an important decision.

Banish Japs, Demands

ATTU has fallen. Down in the South Pacific, American and Australian soldiers and airmen are hammering Jap positions.

But what are we doing about the Japs here at home?

General DeWitt, commander of coast defenses on the Pacific, is going to be transferred somewhere else. Why? Because he dared to speak out against the mush-brained sentimentalists who have been coddling the Japs in the concentration camps and who now want to set them free to peril our war effort?

Have the Japs and the Jap-lovers enough political pull to move a general of the United States army because he adopts a sane, realistic attitude toward our enemies?

Investigation made recently proves beyond a doubt that a large percentage of the American-born Japs want to go to Japan and are loyal to Hirohito. They signed their names to questionnaires openly announcing their preference for Japan.

The curse of the labor movement has been dissension within its ranks, caused mainly by men who endeavored to divide labor and were successful in creating such divisions, as when the CIO was created. This has brought about a condition almost destroying the splendid effects of the national labor act.

And this division has weakened the main body of labor and has resulted in the enactment of adverse labor legislation paralyzing the trade union movement in many states.

It will undoubtedly result in national legislation that will set us back perhaps forty years. We can protect ourselves against our open enemies by a united front, but it is difficult to guard ourselves against those that would divide us, who are within our fold.

Washington Teamster

We have already proved that we are more than a little soft-brained in our handling of known Nazis and Bundists. Men high in congressional influence are using their pull to keep known Nazis from being tried for sedition — and that's no secret.

Good sense calls for an immediate change in method. Let the handling of our Japs be turned over to army and navy men who have fought the Nips in the South Pacific and the Aleutians. And take those sentimentalists who are so enamored of the Japs, put them in uniform, and send them to Attu or to New Guinea to learn at first hand about Japs.

Harry Foster, well known Olympia attorney, suggests a constitutional amendment to take away the citizenship of American-born Japs so that they may all be deported when this war is over. It's a good idea to consider seriously.

We demand that the Japs be kept off this coast, now — and forever.

—*The Washington Teamster.*

ODT Puts Horses on Skip Delivery Schedule—

Are They Saving Gas or Hay?

OUR milk drivers in New York were ordered to cut their gasoline consumption by 40 per cent because of the shortage of gasoline in the East. This hurt us, but the drivers were willing to comply.

The Office of Defense Transportation then went into competitive business and said to the milk owners and drivers: "You cannot use horse-drawn vehicles to deliver milk."

There never was any such ridiculous order issued by any government tribunal before. Anyone may reasonably ask this question: "In the name of common sense, if the purpose is to save gasoline, how can it effect the saving of gasoline to use horses and wagons?"

But the answer is that the ODT not only got into the saving of gasoline, but they were bluffed, mesmerized, or willfully deceived by the representatives of the employers or milk distributors and they therefore entered into the competitive field.

The ODT is only required to help out the War and Navy Departments by saving the gasoline. It has no right to tell any employer how he can deliver his milk, except that he must reduce his previous consumption of gasoline by 40 per cent.

This is what caused such confusion in the milk industry in New York and it almost brought about utter contempt for the ODT and its representatives on the part of our people and on the part of the public to some extent, because they, too, were suffering.

The villains in the play are the large distributors, such as the Borden Company and the Sheffield Farms — now the National Dairy Company. For a number of years they were controlled by bankers.

Although they have some horse and wagon outfits, they have been endeavoring to establish every-other-day delivery. They

have been anxious to go further and establish central distribution points where everyone would have to go to buy their pint of milk and take it home to their tenement or apartment.

This, they claim, would cut down the cost of distribution and thereby increase the already substantial profits.

In all the years we have been dealing with these corporations they haven't improved very much and they never will improve, because they are so rapaciously hungry for more profits for the high-salaried men at the top and for their stockholders.

McInerney, who was president of the National Dairy Company until recently, was paid \$75,000 a year. The Borden officials have salaries of about the same amount, graded down in accordance with their positions.

Their elaborate offices and their expensive equipment have all been taken out of the profits, and still they keep on welshing about wages and employment to their drivers or distributors and to the farmers for the price of their raw products.

There were others, of course, lined up with these concerns in the movement to get rid of what they called the unnecessary daily delivery of fresh milk and cream to the homes of the thousands of workers in New York who want to reach out in the morning and get their quart of milk or half-pint of cream for their breakfasts.

The ODT fell into the trap when they said: "For reasons best known to ourselves, you must not bring back the old horse and wagon even though the horse doesn't drink gasoline or use up rubber." They found some excuse by saying that it would be unfair competition for those distributors who had no horses and wagons.

There are over 1,000 of those rigs in New York that could be put into use within 48

hours, and the thousand men to be laid off as a result of every-other-day deliveries would be kept in continuous employment and the people in the hot summer months and in zero weather of winter would have their fresh milk and other dairy products delivered to their doorsteps every morning.

All that was requested by the members of the Milk Drivers' Union was that they be allowed to comply with the gasoline restrictions by using horses and wagons wherever possible.

Now anyone would think that would be fair, but it took nearly a week to drive it into the heads of the Washington ODT people, who finally turned it over to the War Labor Board before we could get the board to agree to give further consideration to the simple request of the Milk Drivers' Union of New York.

As the case stands at this writing, all drivers went to work, agreed to the every-other-day delivery, agreed to load up their trucks as heavily as possible, and the War Labor Board agreed that no one would be

laid off until the case had been heard and decided by that board.

In further explanation to our members, let us explain that we cannot refuse to reduce the use of gasoline. It is needed by our men on the battlefronts.

As the war goes on we will have more equipment to supply and more tanks and airplanes to keep going. This war can be won or lost on gasoline. We supply—or did a short time ago—much of England's gasoline. Some bombers burn a gallon of gas every mile they fly.

None of us object to making our sacrifice so that they can be supplied. What we do object to is a blundering mistake by a department in Washington, which says: "You cannot use horses and wagons to deliver milk."

Our milk drivers in New York and elsewhere will do their job. They will take their medicine for their country's cause, but they won't forget when the war is over who their real enemies are.

Planes Are Helpless Without Trucks

Dear Sir:

We were grouped under a wing of our plane for a while enjoying a spare-time period, and as it is in groups, conversations will start.

Well, they can all say what the planes can do and the planes get all the credit.

So, luckily, I reached in my pocket and pulled out the oily May edition of our International Teamster, which was a bit soiled from reading with greasy and oily hands. Well, anyway, there's a perfect story in there giving a good deal of credit to the "trucks."

The boys didn't realize how helpless the big planes are without the aid of the trucks bringing the gas and oil and parts.

So every big air victory we hear of is also a big truck victory for the army of trucks that serviced those planes.

Many other subjects in the International Teamster were of real interest to us plane mechanics down here.

Thanks to Local No. 257 for continuing to send the magazine to me even though I'm gone; for it's forwarded to me every time.

So as for us truckers, it's

KEEP 'EM DRIVIN'.

PRIVATE (First Class) CHESTER KRUSE.

Tobin Favors Return of Miners or CIO to Solidify Labor

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

As one of the members appointed by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor to negotiate a return of the United Mine Workers to the federation, I am strongly in favor of unifying the labor movement, and to that end I will do all that I can to bring the Miners back into the federation.

It must be understood, however, that there are laws and rules in the American Federation of Labor that protect other unions, and these laws cannot be set aside even if the executive council desired to do so.

Only the convention of the American Federation of Labor can change the constitution of that organization.

All affiliated unions now in the American Federation of Labor have guaranteed rights, and their jurisdiction is outlined in their charter granted by the federation.

Their rights cannot be destroyed.

Their jurisdiction can be increased or reduced or amended only by the conventions of the federation, after having been acted upon by the executive council. This precedent has been established, and this guiding rule has been set forth by the execu-

tive council and approved by the conventions of the federation.

Anyone who insinuates that there is any political maneuvering on either side of this question doesn't understand the case. Unions within the federation have free political choice, barring Communists. The federation cannot force anyone to vote other than in accordance with his conscience.

If political office holders interfered in any way in the cementing of the labor movement, I know that the men of labor would rebuke that political party or political office holder.

It is unfortunate, and a great injury to labor, to have the present contemplated legislation against labor enacted into law.

There is no doubt whatever but that labor disturbances throughout the nation had a substantial influence on the legislators and encouraged them in their action. For

some time past—yes, since the last congressional election—there has been an anti-labor feeling in both branches of the congress.

However, the men of labor were successful in deferring action on all anti-labor legislation until recent strikes, labor disagree-

Fight Lewis Return

The executive board of the Progressive Mine Workers is determined that Lewis' path of success via the AFL is not going to be easily traveled, for the board has indicated that it is preparing to vigorously fight the effort of Lewis to get back into the federation; that it is not inclined to let the PMWA charter to the federation go by default.

For the executive council to recharter the UMWA while the PMWA still held its charter would be a violation of the AFL constitution, as well as a serious breach of faith and principle. We cannot believe that the council members would heedlessly cast aside the Progressive Union to make way for the admission of the United Mine Workers, even though the latter organization is overwhelmingly numerically superior to the PMWA. To take such a step would be the action of labor politicians, not of labor statesmen.—*The Progressive Miner.*

ments and dissatisfaction with the National Labor Relations Board and other boards.

Those strikes gave the enemies of labor their golden opportunity and they were willing to sacrifice all of labor and its officials because of disturbances within one or two organizations. This again proves the necessity of unity in labor.

Political parties that are our friends today can easily forget their pledges tomorrow, and until labor is 100 per cent unified many politicians will take advantage of the present general feeling obtaining in their districts to double-cross labor without disturbing an eyelash.

Walk into the halls of Congress representing 11,000,000 organized workers and their families, and let me tell you those boys will respect you. Cement the split now in labor and you need not beg or plead of congress. Divided as we are into three or four groups, those clever master mechanics of the politi-

cal arena will use one group against the other.

That is the reason that, as one member of the committee having to do with the bringing back of the Mine Workers, I shall do my best to bring back the Mine Workers OR the CIO into the family of labor, in accordance with the laws of labor, to the end that we may be able to protect our hard-won advantages which we gained over the bloody years of the past.

After the ending of this world conflict labor will be crucified and slaughtered if it remains divided.

I might state here that, unfortunately, with my sincere regret, there isn't much encouragement towards a coming back to the American Federation of Labor of the CIO organizations. But whatever happens, even if we still remain divided, let us not allow any outside influence — I mean outside the field of labor — to direct our course to the end that disunity may prevail.

Gen. Fleming Looks Ahead to Peace

"Phil" Fleming is a West Pointer, has been in the Army all his life, and is now a major general, in addition to being chief of the Federal Works Administration.

He cared for the hungry and the idle as director of the WPA. He repeatedly went to the defense of the workers when he was enforcing the Wage-Hour Law. His handling of the works program has been beyond criticism.

In fact, the general is one of the most efficient administrators associated with the New Deal. He is that rare bird, a professional soldier who never overlooks the rights and interests of civilians.

This rather long introduction is written in order to emphasize our approval of the general's suggestion that any postwar works

program which may be formulated by the government should be "flexible."

"It should be so arranged," says the general, "that it can be used to fill in, wherever necessary, the gap between private employment and unemployment."

In other words, instead of spreading the scheme all over the country, it should be used where it is needed.

Not a penny should be spent where private enterprise can take care of the problem, but whatever is necessary should be expended where private enterprise cannot provide jobs.

That's an excellent idea, and we hope General "Phil" will be here after the war to assist in putting it over.

—*The Baltimore Federationist.*

In every union throughout the land a committee should be named to see to it that every member, and the members of his family, are registered. That's the first step, but it's the most important step! Once registered, it will be comparatively easy to get them to the polls on election day.—*The Union Leader, Chicago.*

Lewis Can't Defeat Roosevelt

— He Tried It Twice but Tobin Stopped Him

BY LESTER M. HUNT

THE newspapers had a Roman holiday over the application of John L. Lewis to reaffiliate the United Mine Workers with the American Federation of Labor.

They gave it political significance and suggested that it forecasts a move by Lewis and William L. Hutcheson of the Carpenters to swing the American Federation of Labor against President Roosevelt.

On the assumption that this is the intention of Lewis and Hutcheson, many of the newspapers imply that it will have great effect on the outcome of the 1944 elections.

Some even assert that it means a Republican President.

But this is an old tune the newspapers are whistling. We've heard that song before. In 1932, for instance.

At that time Lewis and Hutcheson were for Hoover. They opposed Roosevelt. President Tobin supported Roosevelt and opposed Hoover. He was chairman of the Democratic labor campaign committee.

Lewis and Hutcheson echoed Hoover's campaign slogan of "a chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage."

Tobin indorsed Roosevelt's promise of a New Deal for the forgotten man.

And what did the rank and file of labor do in the face of such conflicting advice from their leaders?

They buried Hoover under their empty chicken pots.

Lewis and Hutcheson were not able to swing labor Republican then.

In 1936 practically everybody in labor followed Tobin's leadership and re-elected Roosevelt. They couldn't swallow that Kansas cauliflower.

But in 1940 Lewis and Hutcheson broke loose again and went down the line for a big corporation lawyer.

As usual, labor stayed with Roosevelt.

Tobin is still on the executive council of the American Federation of Labor. He has not lost his voice. Nor has he lost the ear of labor.

If there was a move afoot to slip labor into somebody's vest pocket, labor's friends would be there to block it as they were in 1932 and 1940.

So, when the newspapers talk of the great political significance of the application of Lewis to return to the AFL, they have either forgotten their current political history or they have disregarded it for reasons of their own.

Not a single newspaper nor a single newspaper writer has advanced a reason why reactionaries within labor would be more powerful if they sit again on the executive council of the AFL than they were when they sat there before.

The newspapers are just blowing soap bubbles.

So far as the reaffiliation of the Miners is concerned, their application will be governed by the same procedure as governed the application of the International Ladies' Garment Workers.

The application of the garment workers attracted very little attention at the time, notwithstanding the fact that it was of greater significance than that of the Mine Workers because the Garment Workers were the first union to break away from the CIO.

That was a big event for the AFL. From that day on, the prestige of the CIO has been weakened and there have been no compensating additions to its membership.

The AFL began to grow and in the last year its growth has been accelerated. Its peak membership was 6,200,000 according to the latest reports to the executive com-

mittee at its recent meeting in Washington, D. C.

The return of the Miners would add another 600,000. A reduction of the dues-paying membership is anticipated, however, because of the slackening of government work.

This temporary loss should be overcome when the workers find other employment.

When the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union applied for reaffiliation of its 250,000 members, President Green advised President David Dubinsky that his union could return only with the same charter rights it had when it left.

The Teamsters' Union was the only one that raised any objection to the return of the Garment Workers and this was because they held some team drivers in New York.

Dubinsky assured Green that this conflict of jurisdiction would be adjusted. On that assurance, the Garment Workers were readmitted with the same jurisdiction they originally had, except for the understanding regarding Teamsters.

Dubinsky was further informed that his union could pay per capita tax on only its actual membership and that payments would begin the month the union was readmitted to the AFL.

Consequently when the Garment Workers reappeared at the AFL convention their voting strength was based on the per capita tax they had paid. And the per capita tax was based on the membership at the time the union was readmitted.

This is the precedent that will govern the United Mine Workers. All members of the AFL executive committee were purportedly pleased when the application of the Mine Workers was submitted. But they indicated their actions would follow closely the original policy pursued by the executive body and approved by the conventions of the AFL.

Thus any union returning to the AFL must do so on the jurisdictional rights it held at the time of its withdrawal.

The United Mine Workers have expanded their jurisdiction since they left the AFL. Their District No. 50 has taken in everybody that wanted to get in. It includes a conglomeration of dairy farmers, cosmeticians, chemical workers, gas house workers, railroad employees, truck drivers, construction workers, office workers and so on.

Although desirous for the reaffiliation of any large group of workers, the AFL executive body could not accept the Miners' application as expeditiously as it did that of the Garment Workers.

It will have to be clearly understood that the AFL will not admit the Miners on their own terms but on the terms laid down by the conventions of the AFL.

Therefore the United Mine Workers must get rid of their farmers, truck drivers, and other classes of workers covered by the charters of other international unions in the AFL.

If any union returning to the AFL believes it should have expanded jurisdiction, it must follow a specific course prescribed by the constitution of the AFL. It must first apply to the executive council for extension, giving the reasons for its request.

The council would then notify all other unions interested. Eventually, the executive council could approve or disapprove the request but in either case the next convention of the AFL must ratify the decision of the executive council.

Nobody can walk into the executive council and receive an extension of jurisdiction like somebody was passing out cigars.

And no labor leader can hand over the votes of American workers like cigars, either.

American workers will always listen to leaders in whom they have confidence, as they did in 1932 and 1940. But before they vote they will consider the experience and record of the candidate for whom their votes are solicited.

They won't be stamped away from their friends in 1944 just because some politician has an axe to grind.

Another War Will Destroy Labor

Senator Ball Stresses Need for Enduring Peace

BY U. S. SENATOR JOSEPH H. BALL

ORGANIZED labor recognized from the beginning its stake in the outcome of World War II. Its leaders and members, who are realists, early recognized Hitler's "divide and conquer" strategy for what it was. They had had experience with that strategy. They saw clearly that such democratic institutions as a free labor movement would have no place in a totalitarian world. And so organized labor threw its weight and influence behind the so-called "interventionist" policy long before Pearl Harbor.

Nearly 2,000,000 members of unions, including 100,000 Teamsters, are in the armed services. Their leaders and members, with one major and a few minor exceptions, have cooperated to the limit in expanding war production; have accepted and tried to make work many restrictions on their freedom of action, in the face of vacillating governmental policies and exasperating delays in decisions. There is no question but that organized labor recognizes that it is fighting against a threat to its very existence, as well as that of our nation, in this war.

Democracy Is Threatened

Organized labor has just as vital a stake in the task of making the peace after this war a permanent peace. That task in many ways will be more difficult than winning the war because it involves blazing new trails in the face of all the inertia and resistance to any change that exists in government, as well as deep-seated American prejudices against mixing in world politics.

Democratic institutions cannot survive continually recurring wars. Already in this war we have relinquished most of our rights and liberties. We have done it voluntarily, because we recognize our stake in victory, and we expect to get them back.

We have price control, rationing, tremendous dislocation of our domestic economy with some businesses and sources of employment expanding tremendously while others are curtailed or eliminated. Unions have voluntarily given up their ultimate weapon, their members are "frozen" to their jobs, their wages and working conditions determined, not through collective bargaining, but by government orders.

None of us like these restraints, and all of us resent the red tape and inefficiency that seems inevitable in government controls of this sort. Yet in our beefing, we sometimes forget why we have them. We have them because we are at war and they are necessary to fight a modern war. We in America did not want war, but we got it.

We Let Dictators Run Wild

We got war because we and other peoples in other nations that also did not want war sat back and did nothing effective about stopping war. We and they sat back and let Hitler rearm, annex Austria, march into the Rhineland, seize Czechoslovakia without a fight.

We let Japan grab Manchuria and Mussolini take Ethiopia, and all we did was talk. England and France began fighting when Hitler marched into Poland, and we over here began to wake up after the Nazis had overrun Norway, Denmark, France, Belgium and Holland, but it took Hirohito's surprise party at Pearl Harbor to finally show us that we were in the war and had been in it from the beginning.

Carrying hindsight one step further, it is now clear that if all the nations since attacked by the Axis had stood together in 1931 and told Japan—"get out of Manchuria or we fight," or if they had stood

together in 1936 or later at Munich, and said to Hitler—"you march and we fight," there probably would have been no World War II, and if there had been, it would have been a relatively minor affair compared to what we are in now.

Aggression, whether it is the kaiser's, Hitler's or Hirohito's brand, is basically the same. It feeds on conquest and grows. It never stops until it is stopped by force and the earlier the force is applied, the easier the cure.

Twice in one generation we have refused to recognize the fact that "united we stand, divided we fall" until the last and costliest moment for ourselves. We have learned the lesson and now it is time to act on what we have learned.

Organize United Nations

That is the logic behind Senate Resolution 114, which Senators Hatch, Hill, Burton and myself have introduced in the senate. That resolution simply urges that the United States take the initiative in getting the United Nations organized now to do two things: first, set up machinery for peaceful settlement of international disputes of the future, and second, agree to establish and maintain a military force and use that force to stop in its very beginning any future attempts at military aggression by any nation.

America wants peace, always has wanted peace. We propose simply that America do something positive about it instead of just indulging in wishful thinking.

The present national administration is committed to such a course of international collaboration. The difficulty is that the President cannot speak effectively for the country on this issue because any commitments he makes are subject to ratification by the senate, which 23 years ago defeated the Versailles treaty and the League of Nations.

Recent speeches by some of our former isolationist leaders make it very clear that they have learned nothing

from experience, that they are only waiting for the war to end to attempt once more to swing America back to an isolationist policy and thus set the stage for World War III.

They will not get far with the American people now, during the war, with all the lessons of the past three years fresh in our minds. But we forget quickly, and once the war is over their chances will be better. We'll have domestic problems to handle, we'll want the men in service back home, there will be differences on details of the peace settlement between us and our allies.

And these leaders know how to exploit to the limit all of these factors, irrelevant as they are to the main issue, in their effort to keep the United States from joining in a collective world effort to maintain peace.

The time to do this job is now, and the way to do it is through the congress and specifically, the senate. At present, our resolution is still in committee. Some members who favor its principles honestly fear that if it is brought out for debate its opponents will say things on the floor that may drive some of our allies away and hurt the war effort.

Now Is Time to Act

That very fear shows how urgent is the need for action now. If appeals to passion and prejudice are that dangerous now, what havoc can they work on any chance for permanent peace once victory is won and all restraints are off and the bitter lesson of war fading into the past?

Of course, this is a controversial issue and next year is an election year and some members and some rabid partisans may feel there is no advantage to be gained and possibly much to be lost in deciding it now. A policy of drift, of wait and see, is much more comfortable. Unfortunately, that kind of policy got us into two world wars in one generation. And it will get us into number three.

We who offered this resolution and those with us feel that this issue, touching so

vitably the lives of future generations and involving the safety of our freedom and democracy, should not be dodged or postponed simply because a few individuals will oppose it and say some nasty things on the senate floor.

We are not going to let it die in committee. One way or another, the roll will be called in the senate. Organized labor can help.

The postwar world is not going to be organized exactly the way the United States would like it to be organized. Compromise

of honest differences between nations will make that impossible. But unless it is effectively organized to maintain peace, with the force necessary for the job, and with the United States participating, there is only one alternative for us. That alternative is to continue our huge military establishment for the sake of security, with all the controls and restrictions that requires.

A free labor movement as we know it would be a thing of the past, and finally would vanish completely in World War III.

That is labor's stake in a permanent peace.

Larger Assessments Needed for Statistical Work

SEVERAL local unions have received as much as \$500 a year per member increase in wages within the last year as a result of decisions made by the War Labor Board. This of course includes vacations and time and one-half for overtime after a certain number of hours. Some of those local unions depended entirely upon the Statistical Department of our International Union in Washington, D. C. Others had their own local statistical departments which did the groundwork.

All local unions in well organized districts or in large cities should have their own local statistical departments, and they should pay for it.

These departments cannot be set up properly, with the right kind of men, on any such thing as 50 cents per year per member, which is what smaller districts have allotted for the maintenance of a local statistical department.

Remember that what you pay to obtain facts in your district is money well spent. Why anyone should hesitate to pay at least one dollar a year to maintain a statistical Department when so many unions have

profited so much from these department, is difficult to explain. Yet this is the attitude of local officers in some instances. Efficiency and facts are what count.

Remember also that you will undoubtedly be confronted with reductions at the ending of this war, when the cost of living will again fall, and you will need statistical bureaus locally and nationally more than you do now. It is a certainty that the International Union, with its department in Washington, will not be able to do even as much as it is doing now.

We should have at least five to seven more persons in the International Statistical Department. We cannot find the right kind of material, and from your contribution of 30 cents a month we cannot pay all the expenses of the International Union and properly maintain the Statistical Department. It is an utter impossibility to make 30 cents go where one dollar is required.

Think these things over from a business standpoint, and decide for yourselves what you should do to protect your unions, not only during the war but after the war.

We believe in the right to strike. We believe everyone has the right to strike. But we do not believe anyone has the right to endanger the war effort. Nor to betray labor into the hands of its enemies with the kiss of death — striking on war production lines.—*The Labor Beacon, Michigan City, Ind.*

Miners Must Work, Tobin Warns

— Public Won't Tolerate Sabotage of War

From the Chicago Sun of June 7

CHICAGO's new "Victory Plaza" at the LaSalle Street entrance of the City Hall was dedicated yesterday with a warning from Daniel J. Tobin, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, that the people would not stand for interference with the war effort from any source.

The \$10,000 plaza was donated by the Teamsters Joint Council, No. 25. It will be used as a reviewing stand for patriotic demonstrations, parades, war bond rallies and ceremonies connected with the war.

Tobin, who also is a member of the Amer-

ican Federation of Labor executive board, directed his warning to John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers — who are scheduled to resume work this morning after a brief strike — at the isolationist press — and at Congress.

Tobin predicted that the United Mine Workers would not dare to resume their strike. He said:

"I am satisfied that the members of that organization will not cease work again for the duration of the war. The people and the government have the right to insist and de-



Daniel J. Tobin

Thomas E. Flynn

John M. Gillespie

These three officials from International headquarters are shown as they boarded an American Air Lines plane last month to join Chicago Teamsters in the dedication of the Victory Plaza, the gift of Joint Council No. 25 to the city of Chicago.

mand that every individual do his part of the job toward winning the war.

"The people will not stand for anyone who does not."

In regard to Congress, Tobin declared: "It would be well if that body adjourned

for a year to give President Roosevelt and the people who toil a chance to win the war."

Criticism of the war effort and the working people by the isolationist press has done more to hinder the nation's war effort than any other single cause, Tobin charged.

General President Tobin, General Secretary-Treasurer Gillespie and General Organizer Thomas E. Flynn were present at the ceremonies on Sunday afternoon, June 6, 1943, at which time the beautiful work of art so appropriately named Victory Plaza was handed over to Mayor Kelly of Chicago by the Joint Council of Teamsters of the city of Chicago.

The presentation was made by L. G. Goudie, president of the joint council. The general president addressed the open air meeting from a platform erected in front of City Hall.

It is difficult to describe this beautiful, patriotic gift to the city of Chicago. One must see it in order to appreciate its beauty and its patriotic value at this particular time when our country is engaged in a life and death struggle to maintain its freedom and liberty. Special legislation had to be enacted by the city government in order to permit the city of Chicago to accept this wonderful memorial.

The day was chilly considering the month

of June, and there was a threat of rain. However, the rain held off until after the ceremonies were completed.

The mayor paid a splendid tribute to the organized Teamsters of Chicago. We regret to say that the attendance was not what it should have been on such a memorable occasion.

Our membership, generally speaking, does not appreciate the value of their own organization and the absolute necessity of attending celebrations and gatherings of this kind. However, the officers of the International Union were very happy to have the opportunity to witness the dedication.

They traveled from Indianapolis in order to be present because they realized the importance of the occasion. We have reason to believe that the Victory Plaza — which cost the Joint Council very close to \$10,000 — was an expenditure that will bring the Teamsters valued results.

A large check for Victory Bonds was handed over to the representative of the Treasury Department.

Second Fronters are Second Guessers

A CHECK discloses that those who are most vociferously clamoring for a second front in Europe are the same individuals who a few years ago contended that we were safe from invasion and belabored the point that to invade the country with a million men would call for 1,800 cargo boats and twice that number to keep the invaders supplied if they succeeded in landing.

Do the "second fronters" want us to believe that it is easier to transport an army

across to Europe than to transport one from Europe to our shores? No, of course not. Their only purpose is to make it uncomfortable for the administration.

By and large, congress is willing to leave the planning and the winning of the war to men who are trained in the art of killing the enemy. In this respect, at least, the world's greatest deliberative body is in step with the remainder of the country.

—Charles M. Kelley in
The Boilermakers' Journal.

General Praises Truck Drivers

— Were Unsung Heroes of African Campaign

BY BRIG. GEN. RAPHAEL S. CHAVIN

Chief, Supply Branch, Field Service Division, Ordnance Department, U. S. Army

[Gen. Chavin, who began his Army career in June, 1916, as a private, has just returned from North Africa, where he inspected supply lines from Casablanca to Tunisia. He covered more than 1,200 miles in the combat area and obtained information that will be valuable in solving supply problems in future engagements with the Axis.]

TRUCK DRIVERS are the unsung heroes of this war. They played a gallant role in the victory of the United Nations in the North African campaign, especially in the closing days of the battle for Tunisia when our advance depended so much on the uninterrupted flow of ammunition and supplies to the front.

Dog-tired drivers remained behind the steering wheels of their vehicles hour after hour, relinquishing their places to less-tired men only when they were physically exhausted, or when an enemy bomb or shell found its mark.

Lieut. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, commander of the 2nd Army Corps in Tunisia, attributed much of the success of his organization to the work of the men who hauled ammunition and supplies to the battle line.

Continuous truck convoys were in operation day and night from major bases to supply points behind the 2nd Army Corps.

Eight hundred tons of ammunition were transported every day to one supply point alone. Approximately 1,000 2½-ton trucks were required for this operation, which meant that 300 of these trucks were on the road every hour of the day.

Just how complex was this supply problem is best illustrated by figures released by Maj. Gen. Humphrey M. Gale, the British supply officer who was chief of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's administrative services.

Three hundred types of ammunition for the ground forces alone had to be taken to the front, and 220 different kinds of air force ammunition, weighing from 4 to 4,000 pounds, were transported to airfields.

Every time an ordnance truck took the road in a combat area it was a target for the enemy. As a result, every driver had to be a well-trained, fighting soldier, ready to man the anti-aircraft guns that were mounted on every third or fourth truck in each convoy. However, Axis planes were pretty scarce when we finally got the Jerries on the

run in Tunisia, and casualties among the drivers resulted mostly from enemy mines and gunfire.

The story of the courage of these men and their dogged determination to carry out orders has been written in grime and dust and sweat — yes, in blood and sacrifice, too. It's not a glamorous job, driving a truck, but it's one of the most dangerous and one that requires that every man be a hero.



Brig. Gen. Chavin

One of the outstanding examples of the performance of truck drivers is told in a citation accompanying the award of the Silver Star for gallantry in action to 1st Sgt. Philip A. D'Agostino, of Albion, N. Y.

Our troops had seized an airfield in a salient that extended well into enemy lines. Our planes were operating from that field but in order to continue they needed supplies and ammunition. D'Agostino and a number of other drivers volunteered to take a convoy of seven trucks through to the field.

Starting from their supply base at 2:00 A. M., the convoy had proceeded only a short distance when it ran into enemy artillery and rifle fire. Two of the trucks were knocked out, but the rest pushed on.

An advance American patrol, which they met on the road, advised the drivers to turn back. There was bitter fighting up ahead, the patrol commander said.

That didn't stop D'Agostino and his men. They kept right on. Five miles from its destination, the convoy ran into heavy fire and found it was impossible to go any further on the main road. Even that didn't stop D'Agostino. He led the convoy through a wooded section over a little-used side road, which was covered by enemy snipers.

Despite constant peppering by the snipers, the five trucks that were left in the convoy got through to the airfield with the vitally needed supplies.

One such trip in a lifetime would have sufficed for most men, but not for D'Agostino and his crew.

As soon as they had completed the delivery, they turned around and went back over the same road to pick up another load.

Under constant barrage they made two more round trips in a 36-hour period. Only when all the supplies had been carried to the air base did they ask for relief.

Much of the success of our supply units in getting enough stuff to our front line soldiers on time must be credited to the main-

tenance troops, the men who keep those 2½-ton, six-wheel trucks in good repair. During the battle for Tunisia, I inspected supply lines that were 1,200 miles long.

At no time did I see an American truck that was disabled because of a mechanical failure.

Naturally there were trucks wrecked by shell fire and mines and a few damaged through collisions at night.

In some advance bases, where it was impossible to haul certain types of equipment needed to maintain automotive vehicles, our men frequently manufactured equipment on the spot, fashioning parts out of scrap iron or salvage from wrecked vehicles.

Before the Tunisian campaign was very old the drivers discovered that enemy planes and patrols were quick to spot our mobile repair units when they were headed for advance bases.

If our vehicles were immobilized through lack of repairs, it meant just that much more of a handicap to the men in the front lines. The enemy knew that, too, and so our large, bus-like, mobile shops were particular targets for enemy fliers.

It was just in such a situation that American ingenuity and resourcefulness came to the rescue. Drivers and repair men had noticed that enemy fliers paid little attention to anything as small as a jeep.

Ordinarily, they wouldn't waste even light ammunition on a jeep. So our maintenance outfits rigged up small trailers with gas and electric welding equipment towed by a jeep. Most of the time these vehicles escaped attention and were able to get well up into the fighting zones where maintenance men could repair trucks as well as tanks and other combat vehicles.

American enterprise was evident in every combat area. For example, at one maintenance base there was always a shortage of clean rags, so the men rigged up a washing machine in which they could launder rags as well as clothing. A motor from a demolished automobile supplied the power and an

old oil drum was converted into a tub for the washing machine.

In the same way on the home front, the enterprise of American workers and technicians is making it possible for our factories and arsenals to outproduce those of the Axis. But the huge quantities of guns and bombs and bullets we are turning out become part of our fighting equipment only

when they get into the hands of our fighters.

Our civilian truck drivers, hauling the weapons of war from our industrial plants to the embarkation points, are driving the first lap of the road from the factory to the battlefield. Our army drivers are seeing to it that there is no faltering in deliveries on the last lap.

Anaconda Officers Softly Rebuked

— "Not Criminal Type," Says Judge Named Slick

IT SEEMS we have done a grave injustice to the officials of the Anaconda Wire & Cable Co. We thought they were criminals. We thought any man was a criminal who defrauded the government and we thought anyone who would sell defective wire to be used by soldiers and sailors in battle should go to prison for a long, long time.

But it seems we were wrong about it.

The officials of the Anaconda Wire & Cable Co. are not criminals. They are not that type of men at all. They don't even need to be reformed.

Who says so? Their attorney?

No! No! The judge himself said it. A judge by the name of Slick — Thomas W. Slick of the federal court in Indiana. This Slick was the man who sat and heard the evidence in the case.

He heard the story of how two big shots of the company and three subordinate employees defrauded the government on a five-million-dollar war contract. They did it by electrical devices which concealed the defects in the wire from the government inspectors.

The wire was for soldiers in the field and to protect American ships from magnetic mines.

The Anaconda officials did not plead innocent of the charges. They pleaded "*nolo contendere*," one of those Latin terms

so dear to the court which prevents the public from understanding what is going on.

In entering a plea of "*nolo contendere*," the Anaconda officials practically admitted their guilt and threw themselves on the mercy of the court.

And it was a very smart move. Because the judge didn't even slap their wrists. He just massaged them gently — so gently it was almost a caress.

He fined the general manager of the company \$10,000 and sentenced him to 18 months in jail. Only 18 months! Only 18 months for a crime that might have cost thousands of sailors and soldiers their lives and lost a vital battle for America.

But Judge Slick thought even this was too severe. So he suspended the jail sentence.

This is the same sentence a Baltimore welder received for faulty work in a defense plant. But the welder will serve his time while the Anaconda official will not.

Judge Slick fined the local manager of the Anaconda plant the same as he did the general manager — \$10,000 on a five-million-dollar swindle or at the rate of .002 per cent.

And he won't serve any time in jail either. The three lesser culprits were let off with fines of \$500 and \$100.

An amazing angle of the case is that Slick

criticized the government attorneys for mentioning in the indictment that the fraud of the Anaconda company hindered the war effort.

"I have said," he told the federal attorneys, "that I couldn't see any good reason for having that clause in the indictment. The indictment would look just as good to me without it."

In other words, the judge objected to weighing the gravity of the crime by its effect on the war. He said that didn't matter.

And then listen to this:

"I don't think one of these defendants is of the criminal type. They are not criminals at heart. They have made a very serious

mistake but they already have suffered more than any real criminal."

That isn't the defense attorney talking. It's his honor, Slick. The defense attorney didn't need to say it. The judge said it for him.

What does a man have to do to be a criminal in Slick's court?

Apparently it isn't enough to jeopardize the lives of soldiers and sailors and to defraud the government on a war contract.

That's as close as anyone could come to outright sabotage or treason.

But Slick says they are not the criminal type.

That Baltimore welder should get a big laugh out of that!

Meets 8,000 Teamsters in One Army Camp

Dear Sir:

Upon reading your June issue of the International Teamster, I find a very nice and most interesting article about the truck drivers in the Tunisian North African campaign.

I am instructor here in our motor pool and helped train many of these boys who were in this big push. I always manage to ask each one before he completes his schooling on his driver's test, which all army truck drivers get, if and what local he belonged to.

To date I have met around 8,000 members of our different organizations and locals here, and I mean it is a pleasure to work with these boys, as they take hold and continue without much help. I think your article in the last issue is a mighty fine contribution to our army and also our organization and hope you will continue these fine articles.

Before coming into the service, I was a member of Local No. 691 of Richmond, Ind., which sends me all of the books and papers. I have been lots of places and have seen a lot but the American people are still the grippers; never learn there is a war on.

Also might tell you the first thing the American drivers did while driving on that African desert was to kick out their windshields to do away with reflection and also get air. Had one boy from Milwaukee, Wis., a truck driver, get the D.S.C. for shooting down three Junkers 88s and setting one more on fire. His truck was attacked and he did this with the .50 caliber machine gun his truck had.

Fraternally yours.

CORPORAL ROBERT HAMPTON,
Battery B. 27, A. A. R. T. B., Camp Wallace, Texas.

Minnesota Teamsters Triumph

— Beat Brewery Workers in Duluth, Minneapolis

BY THOMAS O. KACHELMACHER

Attorney for Minneapolis Joint Council of Teamsters

WITHIN the past month the Minnesota Supreme Court and the National Labor Relations Board pulled down the final curtain on the attempts by the Brewery Workers' Union to compel employees of the Minnesota brewery and soft drink companies, who had elected to join the Teamsters, to return to the Brewery Workers' Union.

After the successful organizing activities on the part of the Minneapolis Teamsters in the fall of 1941 and spring and summer of 1942, the Brewery Workers of St. Paul and Minneapolis started a series of legal actions in the Minnesota District Court. In these actions, which were directed against both the Teamsters and various brewery and soft-drink companies, the Brewery Workers' Union asked that all employees of these companies be discharged because they had become members of the Teamsters in violation of the contracts held by the Brewery Workers' Union with the various employers involved.

Under Wrongful Injunction

One by one the actions commenced by the Brewery Workers were defeated in the district court of Minneapolis. We contended that the contracts obtained by the Brewery Workers' Union were not capable of enforcement in court in view of the fact that they were all obtained at a time when the Teamsters were under the restrictions of a wrongful injunction brought by the International Brewery Workers against the Teamsters' International and which was in effect for a number of years before it was dissolved by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, which dissolution was later affirmed by the United States Supreme Court.

The Brewery Workers' Union finally selected one of the cases in the Minnesota District Court as a test case and took an appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court. This was the case involving the Minneapolis Bottling Company which was decided by the Hon. Lars Rue, district judge of Minnesota, in favor of the Teamsters.

After a certain amount of preliminary skirmishing, which took a considerable length of time, the case finally reached the supreme court, where it was fought both on the merits and on the basis of a motion to dismiss the appeal on the ground that the Brewery Workers' Union contract with the company expired, as did all the Brewery Workers' Union contracts, on April 30, 1943.

Contracts Had Expired

The case in the supreme court was heard on April 15, 1943. The supreme court agreed with this contention and dismissed the appeal of the Brewery Workers on the ground that the contract having expired, the Brewery Workers had no standing in court.

All other contracts involved in the various disputes between the Brewery Workers and the Teamsters in Minneapolis also expired on the same date. This decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court dealt the death blow to the claim of the Brewery Workers' Union for legal assistance in organizing the brewery employees.

At approximately the same time this decision was handed down, the National Labor Relations Board decided in favor of the contentions of the Teamsters in the matter involving the Duluth Teamsters and the Duluth Brewery Workers' Union and the six local soft-drink companies in Duluth and vicinity.

The controversy in Duluth originated at about the time other organizing activities began in Minnesota, and through the efforts of Fred Smith and Edwin Marien of the Duluth Teamsters, the employees of the six soft-drink bottling companies of Duluth were organized under the Teamsters.

Brewery Workers on Strike

The organizational activity occurred at a time when the Brewery Workers' Union was involved in a strike and the company was involved in a lockout of all of these same employees.

About 80 per cent of the employees of these companies elected to join the Teamsters with about 20 per cent remaining with the Brewery Workers' Union. The Brewery Workers' Union, unable to obtain the men in any other manner, commenced proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board against the company asking that the company be found guilty of unfair labor practices and that all of the employees who had stuck with the Brewery Workers' Union and were still out on strike because they would not work under the Teamsters' banner, be restored to their employment with full pay for all time lost. The Teamsters intervened.

We proceeded to show that the reason these employees had left the Brewery Workers' Union was not on account of any lockout by the employers or any favoritism on the part of the employers to the Teamsters' Union, but rather because of complete dissatisfaction on the part of the various employees with the Brewery Workers' Union.

Hours of testimony were taken during the week-long trial in Duluth showing the grievances each of the employees had toward the Brewery Workers' permit system and similar practices and the lack of essential and

adequate representation these employees had obtained while members of the Brewery Workers' Union.

The National Labor Relations Board referee found that the employees had left the Brewery Workers' Union to join the Teamsters because they wished adequate and efficient labor representation and that while the company may have been guilty of unfair labor practices, it was not the cause of the transfer of the Brewery Workers' Union members to the Teamsters.

It was, therefore, held that those Brewery Workers who continued out on strike in sympathy with the Brewery Workers' Union were illegally on strike and were not entitled to any back pay or reinstatement. An election was suggested with the present employees voting; the result of this election will probably find the balloting 100 per cent for the Teamsters, as none of the Brewery Workers were reinstated. The decision having been handed down in the last few weeks by the National Labor Relations Board, there has as yet been no election held, but election in this case is merely a matter of form.

Didn't Like That Union

The significance of the Duluth decision is the fact that the dissatisfaction among members of the Brewery Workers' Union with the permit system and type of representation afforded by the various Brewery Workers' Unions is the real basis for success of the Teamsters in organizing among the Brewery Workers, and that where such dissatisfaction exists, as it has in almost every instance, the Brewery Workers' Unions will not be able to successfully claim that the Teamsters have been successful in organizing because of the unfair practices on the part of the employers.

Probably more noise is made in congress about absenteeism than anywhere else in the country. A newspaper reporter made a survey the other day when important legislation—or at least it seemed important because it involved a war appropriation of several billion dollars—was before congress. All senators were present except 67 and all representatives were in their places except 328.

—International Labor News Service.

Don't Tell Paul Mallon but—

We're Considering Buying the Pentagon Building

BY J. L. BUSBY

Teamsters' Union No. 612, Birmingham, Alabama

WHO is Paul Mallon? Or, in other words, who does he think he is? I read, on June 9, the article in the *Birmingham News* where Paul Mallon was seemingly complaining about the unions getting rich and buying buildings in Washington. He also pointed out that liberalism had raised, by enslavement, the man who works with his hands above the independent man who works with his brain. Well, Mr. Mallon, no doubt you think you are smart, but the fact is, you have lots to learn, and if and when you do awake you will find that it is just nature for one who works with his brain to never make the grade, and the only reason that one who works with his hands ever gets anywhere is simply because he uses his brain. In other words he has sense enough to join with other workers into a union.

I once had several men come into my office. They introduced themselves and said they were clerks and bookkeepers in the banks, and they wanted to get organized into a union. I asked them what their present salary was.

One of them said: "My daddy spent \$5,000 putting me through college, and now I have been working for the First National Bank nine years and am only making \$14 per week."

I then asked them if any of them had served on a jury. Most of them answered in the affirmative. I then said: "Do you remember when you are called to the court room along with 23 others, and after the lawyers get through striking, you are always sent back to the room?"

One answered and said that had happened to him. I said the reason for this is the lawyers figure that one who went

through college and then worked nine years for \$14 per week did not have sense enough to sit on a jury and decide a case properly.

Well, Mr. Mallon, they all joined the union and a few days later the banker found out about it and fired only one of them, and of course the others immediately quit the union.

The fact is, Mr. Mallon, when the boss hires you he knows he has a right to put a yoke around your neck. But he is too smart for that. He allows you to wear a "white collar." He knows you will consider that makes you a part and parcel of the boss. And that you will be so busy writing and ranting about workers joining a labor union that you will never have time to think about the poor salary he is paying you. So, you see, you work with your brain while the man who works with his hands uses his brain.

Now, you seem to be very badly worried because of the fact that the unions are buying office buildings in Washington. Well, this only shows they are still using their brains. And now, for your further information, I will let you in on a deep, dark secret — we are seriously considering buying the Pentagon Building!

By the way, you also took the Teamsters to task and said they probably earn more than the writers of the *New Republic* magazine. And, assuming you are referring to truck drivers, I ask you — Why should they not earn more?

Don't you know it requires more brains to drive the big trailer trucks you see passing up and down the highway than it does to write for a paper or magazine? And in addition to the brain requirement, it also takes a great deal of brawn and nerve,

Don't you know the writers would be driving trucks today were it not for the deficiency existing in all three of the elements? Now if they had plenty of the first two elements and were deficient in the last one, called nerve, then, of course, they would be so afraid of the boss that they would not join the union. And soon the boss would

naturally have the truck drivers down to the rate now paid to the writers.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Mr. Mal-
lon, one has lots to learn in this world, and if he utilizes all of his time working with his brain, but never using it to his own advantage, just so long he will be forced to wear a white collar.

77% of Farm and Factory Workers Agree —

Keep Roosevelt as War President

BY LESTER M. HUNT

MORE than 77 per cent of the farm and factory workers favor the re-election of President Roosevelt for a fourth term if the war is still in progress at that time.

This information in itself is not surprising, but the source of it is. The information comes from *Fortune* magazine as the result of a political poll it just conducted.

Fortune is a rich man's magazine. It would not give Roosevelt any breaks to which he was not entitled. Yet it finds that a big majority of all classes of people — 64.8 per cent — favor a fourth term for Roosevelt if the war is still on.

The results of the poll, as reported in the *Chicago Sun*, indicate the failure of the anti-Roosevelt movement to split labor. Labor is still going down the line with Roosevelt in spite of the efforts of some leaders of labor to discredit the President.

The poll shows a remarkable similarity of opinion between farm and factory labor although factory labor is strongly organized and farm labor is unorganized.

The sentiment of farm labor may be a significant factor in the 1944 election and may turn the tables in some of the rural states which the "experts" have been classifying as Republican.

One of the most surprising revelations of the *Fortune* poll was the large percentage of business executives who favor a fourth term if the war continues. Forty-five per cent of them would vote for Roosevelt and less

than a majority would vote against him.

About ten per cent are undecided, which means that in the group which is most anti-Roosevelt, his enemies lack a majority.

Reports of the poll do not assign a reason for this high Roosevelt sentiment among executives but it should not be hard to figure out.

Most of these men, like most of the rest of us, have sons or close relatives in the armed services. They want the war won as speedily as possible with the lowest possible loss of life.

They are not going to play politics with the lives of their sons.

While many of them are bitter in their criticism of the President's domestic policies, most of them privately admit that he is running the war pretty well.

They fear the upheaval that would come in a change of administration in a crucial period of the war. They know what Roosevelt has done and are confident of what he will do. They do not have this confidence in the other men who are angling for the presidency on a record of evasion of vital issues.

If a new President is elected in 1944 as the war is going into its final phases, it would be impossible to avoid a period of uncertainty during which the allies would wonder whether our military policy would be suddenly changed.

They would be inclined to ease up in their

offensives until they found out whether we would stand by our previous promises. Russia, China and England might pull their punches to avoid being caught without supplies.

Thus the war would be lengthened along with the casualty lists. It might cost us a lot of lives to enjoy the luxury of proving the Republican statement that "no man is indispensable."

And the families of men in the service are not taking those chances, no matter what their income bracket and no matter what their views on domestic issues.

The attitude of business executives shows this unmistakable trend. And it is further strengthened by the report of sentiment in the upper middle income groups which comprise lesser executives, business men, professional men — the country club crowd.

They register a clear majority of 52.8 per cent for a fourth term if the war has not ended.

The Roosevelt sentiment grows stronger as the income decreases, proving that the ill-clad and ill-housed know that Roosevelt is their friend.

A significant fact for agitators who are

trying to arouse the Negroes against the administration is that they show the highest sentiment of all for a fourth term — 78.9 per cent.

Another surprising fact shown in the poll is that only 8.2 per cent of the people would abolish the New Deal entirely and less than half would modify it.

In the light of the *Fortune* poll, some of the political forecasters may have to revise their forecasts.

And the isolationist congressmen and senators who are yelping for a constitutional amendment to prevent the people from continuing a President in office more than eight years had better take a quick look around their districts. Their constituents might decide to apply the two-term idea to them.

The people of America know they are in a war and they are going to stand by their commander-in-chief. They are not going to vote to remove Roosevelt any more than the troops in the Pacific would vote to remove MacArthur or the troops in Africa would vote to remove Eisenhower.

The *Fortune* poll proves that. And as far as domestic issues are concerned, it proves that the forgotten man has not forgotten.

Philadelphia Driver Is Prisoner of War

LIEUT. ROBERT D. DOWNES, a member of Railway Express Drivers' Union No. 623 of Philadelphia, is a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japs, according to information sent Thomas E. Flynn at International headquarters by James J. Eno, secretary-treasurer of Local No. 623.

Eno said that Downes was one of the first Teamsters to recognize the seriousness of the international situation. He gave up his job with the Railway Express Agency, Inc., and enlisted in the army in April, 1941.

After preliminary training at the Scott Field radio school, he was assigned to duty

as communications officer at Clark Field, near Manila, and was captured by the Japs when the Philippines fell.

Downes joined Local No. 623 in October, 1938, shortly after he went to work for the express agency and was a member in good standing when he entered the armed service. During his absence he is carried on the seniority roster of the company and will continue to accumulate seniority until he returns from the war.

He is a graduate of Maryville College and attended Princeton Theological Seminary for a time to study for the ministry.

Nothing is too unjust or too harsh that will provide our country TODAY—rather than tomorrow—with the men and the means, the ships and bombers, the tanks and big guns for our victory.—*The Washington Teamster.*

U. S. "Beveridge Plan" is Drafted

— Senators Wagner and Murray Sponsor Program

THE broad social objectives of the American Federation of Labor to banish the fear of want have been laid before both houses of congress in the form of a measure entitled "Social Security Amendments of 1943."

The measure is sponsored in the senate by Senators Robert F. Wagner of New York and James E. Murray of Montana. In the house the bill was introduced by Representative John D. Dingell of Michigan.

It is an American conception of the English "Beveridge Plan" which broke on a surprised world with the concussion of an aerial bomb.

The Beveridge plan captured the imagination of the world because it was conceived in the midst of the sufferings of total war and showed that the British were looking beyond the battle smoke to a peace that would compensate for the sacrifices made to attain it. It gave the enslaved nations new heart to resist the tyranny that would forever banish Beveridge plans along with all human freedom and security.

Now comes the "Social Security Amendments of 1943" in the American congress to show that this nation is looking ahead to a different kind of peace in support of the principles of the Atlantic Charter and the humane and liberal philosophy of President Roosevelt.

In the corridors of congress the Wagner-Murray-Dingell program will encounter

much insincere opposition. It will be met with hypocritical comments from men who say they favor the plan "but this is not the time."

It should wait, we will be told, until after the war. Just as they say all plans for international cooperation should wait.

This is the strategy of delay rather than outright opposition. By delay, the opponents will seek to avoid the odium of open opposition. Of course they know that the longer it can be delayed, the less become its chances of passage.

One feature of this bill, however, is so important that it should thwart these tactics. It would provide unemployment compensation payments to men who return from the war and cannot find jobs.

It would tide them over the period of readjustment and remove their fears that they may come back to a box of

apples on a street corner for their livelihood.

If congress is concerned with the morale of the men who are sweltering in the swamps of the South Pacific or storming the blistering bastions of Hitler's European fortress, it will pass this bill at once.

The measure provides for a unified national insurance system with these major new features:

1. It broadens coverage to include millions of agricultural and domestic workers, self-employed persons, lay employees of educational and religious bodies; also, by

A New Bill of Rights

It was on March 10 that President Roosevelt presented to congress a proposed new bill of rights. It was composed of economic measures.

Immediately the looking-backward crowd howled to high heaven. To rub it in they took away the little money needed by the National Resources Planning Board, which reported the suggestions to the President.

What seems not to dawn upon reactionaries is the simple yet tremendous fact that security after this war for anybody, including reactionaries, is going to depend upon security for the masses of the nation's men and women.

—The Labor Union, Dayton, O.

request, hourly employees of the TVA; also, under voluntary compacts, employees of local and state governments, if they so desire.

2. It grants unemployment insurance compensation to all members of the armed forces who may be unable to find jobs in private industry after the war is over and disability benefits for those physically injured in the war.

3. It provides health and hospitalization insurance for the first time.

4. Also for the first time, the bill sets up a system of temporary and permanent disability insurance.

5. It offers maternity insurance to working women.

6. It extends health insurance and other benefits to the dependents of beneficiaries.

7. It sets up a uniform national system of unemployment insurance, to replace the present state-federal system. Benefits are extended to 26 weeks and, if funds are available, up to 52 weeks in emergencies.

8. Increases the maximum old-age, survivors and permanent disability benefits from \$85 under the present law to \$120 a month.

9. Provides for a broad system of national employment offices to assist employers in finding workers for jobs and to help workers find jobs.

10. Levies a 12 per cent tax on payrolls to finance the program, to be shared equally, 6 per cent by the worker and 6 per cent by the employer. The tax on employers merely anticipates the 6 per cent rate which would go into effect in 1949 under existing law. The tax on employers, which be 2 per cent next year and 3 per cent in 1949, under existing law, is sharply increased to cover the cost of materially greater benefits provided in the new bill.

Another important new feature of the bill is a provision that all social security tax receipts shall be deposited in a federal social

insurance trust fund managed by a board of trustees.

The new health insurance program extends medical and hospital care to all persons covered under old-age and survivors' insurance and for their dependents. The benefits include necessary general and special medical services, hospitalization, nursing and related medical services, supplies and commodities. Technical and professional administration is lodged with the United States Public Health Service. Financial administration is assigned to the Social Security Board, with joint action on matters of joint concern.

The bill assures free choice of any regularly licensed general practitioner, arrangements for use of specialists' services and varied methods of remunerating doctors, with emphasis on maintenance and development of the quality of medical care and provision for grants to aid medical education and research. A national advisory medical and hospital council is established by the bill to advise the surgeon general, who heads the U. S. Public Health Service.

Another section of the bill provides for setting up advisory councils of employee, employer and public representatives to make recommendations on the administration of the social security program and to consider the adequacy of benefits in the post-war period.

Hailing the introduction of this bill in congress as a great forward step toward protecting all American citizens against post-war hazards, AFL President William Green declared:

"The Wagner-Dingell Bill is one of the most important legislative proposals of our times. It fortifies the American way of life against our great internal enemies — poverty, disease and economic dislocation. Coupled with a program for vast expansion of our peace-time industries, it will constitute a guarantee that the American people will be spared from unnecessary suffering after the war is over."

Bill Ingram Was Our Friend

— War Service Contributed to His Sudden Death

WE SELDOM use the columns of our journal to pay tribute to a representative of the employers. We make an exception now in the case of the untimely death of Bill Ingram. We have known this man intimately for several years.

We followed his great athletic career during his days at Annapolis and after he left Annapolis. But we got to know him face to face when he became an official of the large chain of Safeway Stores, and the trusted, human labor representative of that large corporation.

Bill Ingram knew the struggles and the desires and the ability of the working people with whom he came in contact. He respected honest leadership wherever he found it.

When placed in charge of labor by the chain store corporation, he accepted only with the distinct understanding that his decisions would be final and binding and that no director or manager could set his decisions aside.

When he gave us this information we immediately dealt with him as man to man because we realized he was a man who kept his word. He was not only intelligent and understanding. He had courage. He had the courage to disagree with us and with his employers when necessary.

Because of his human understanding of men and his determination to put into practice his honest beliefs, we went out of our way on more than one occasion to be helpful to him. He reciprocated whenever possible and as a result the company that employed him came to be one of the largest chain store systems in the country, ranking side by side with the A. & P. Because of the progressive, humanitarian ideas which helped to stop strikes and tie-ups, he was a valuable man to his employers. He kept the

wheels rolling by agreeing to concessions whenever in his broad judgment it was necessary.

As a result of the understandings and lack of friction between the employees and this great corporation, other corporations engaged in similar employments awakened to the fact that they had better change their policy and get away from their eternal splitting of hairs which brought about misunderstandings in their employments.

More than once Bill Ingram said to Dave Beck and other representatives of our union: "I wish all of our employees were in your union so that I could do business with one organization in whom I have implicit confidence and whose representatives believe as I do, in the faithful observance of contracts."

This was, of course, a compliment to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters but it was not said in the spirit of flattery because Bill Ingram was not a flatterer. He was a man of courage and determination in the industrial field as he was on the football field.

In talking with him some months ago in the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, we tried to discourage him from going into the Marines, believing he was more useful in the position he held in dealing with the thousands of workers, but his heart was in the service. It is a family tradition. His brother is an admiral, serving with great credit to his country. Bill was restless, and this big, strong, powerful man burned up inside for an opportunity to avenge Pearl Harbor.

He was a fighting American with a wonderful naval training, and we now believe that his great desire for active service out on the ocean, facing the enemies of civilization, had consumed his energy so much that

undoubtedly it hastened his death from heart trouble.

To us it is a loss that it will not be easy to replace. We admired him for his honesty and his courage in dealing with us as labor men, and also we loved him and respected him for his friendly, human character which made everyone believe that he considered himself not the hero of the football field, but

just a humble American trying to do as best he could, any job in which he was placed. The greatness of a man is measured by his humility, and humility is based on justice; Bill Ingram was human and just and great. His friendly smile, his firm hand-clasp, his honest manliness will forever freshen his memory with those of us who knew him.

Farmer Applauds Teamsters

— Claims Congress is Sabotaging the People

AN UNUSUAL letter from a clear-sighted western farmer to President Tobin stresses the fact that the Farm Bloc in congress does not represent the average American farmer.

And that the congress as a whole does not represent the average American citizen.

The letter comes from M. F. Cook of Washington state and he commends President Tobin and other labor leaders for their offer to forego wage increases to avert inflation.

Here is his letter, with a timely warning:
"Dear Mr. Tobin:

"No apology is needed when a deeply-perturbed citizen turns to one who influences as many Americans as you do.

"We all know that the Seventy-eighth Congress is sabotaging the benefits gained by the mass of the people the past few years, and is turning the country back to the forces that wrecked it in the '20's. Labor is organized; has great political influence which, if used unselfishly, can be of untold good for itself and for the nation.

"You and other labor leaders took a wise and patriotic step when you offered to forego increased wages if living costs were reduced. The Farm Bloc (I am a farm owner) should be opposed and the Farm Security Administration supported.

"I can't see the Rum plan as anything

but a high-finance trick aimed at the cupidity and gullibility of wage-earners. A current installment plan has merit, but to urge that to have it 1942 taxes must be forgiven is a smoke screen to hide the fact that, if successful, a gift of many millions will be made to big taxpayers.

"If we, the small fry, are short-sighted enough to grab our few dollars at the expense of the Treasury, the next step of soaking us with a 10 per cent sales tax to make up the loss should be easy.

"War-tax shirkers are next to draft evaders. This is no real estate tax. No one is asked to pay it who has not had the money. To suggest cancelling taxes at the same time that it is dinned in our ears that an inflationary gap of billions must be closed by higher taxes and/or compulsory savings is absurd. It's the measure of how stupid the politicians and bankers think we are.

"If we have the character and good sense to accept sacrifice; if congress learns it can't play off the greed of one group against the greed of another; even such a congress as this can be dented. Integrity is a great force. We really have just as bad or as good a congress as we deserve.

"Very truly yours,

"M. F. Cook."

This war must be won—if we are to remain free men. And the sooner the war is won, the sooner we return to our chosen way of life.—Michigan Teamster.

We Still Have the Right to Vote

BY JOSEPH M. CASEY

International Representative, Office of the General President

"**O**RGANIZED LABOR has reached the end of its rope. It has gone too far and is due for a good drubbing."

"Labor has gotten too strong for its own good."

"Nothing can stop the onslaught of anti-labor legislation now."

Such is the prevalent line of comment and talk by press and air. These statements are displayed in headlines and featured in news broadcasts to such an extent that even organized workers themselves are commencing to wonder. Labor leaders are predicting a black future under drastic anti-strike laws.

It is generally believed that labor's right to strike is about to be impaired, not for the duration, but for many years to come.

Ignoring the history-making results of the no-strike pledge of twelve million American workers, ceaseless propaganda against strikes goes on and on. Let a work stoppage occur anywhere, big or small, and the entire labor movement is assailed.

Fortunately, these labor-haters are making the age-old mistake of overselling their propaganda. Congress has become wary, and even the Republicans are waking up to the fact that organized labor has other powers besides the power to strike.

In the field of politics the power of the ballot is supreme. To browbeat and shackle

twelve million voters with their families and friends is hardly the smart thing to do politically. So labor may get some stiff treatment in the way of restrictive legislation. And then again, it may not.

If the profit-crazy fascists who are again attempting to dominate our American economy have their way, organized labor will be legislated out of existence.

This, however, can prove disastrous to the lawmakers themselves, since the votes that perpetuate them in office have become to a larger and larger extent labor votes.

The moneybags of Wall Street have gone far to control and corner votes in past elections, but the union halls of America have changed to a point where lawmakers view with alarm all laws engendered and conceived out of pure hatred for labor.

That is as it should be. Labor must reckon with the anti-union legislators. Very likely some real stiff laws may come out of congress shortly. Organized workers must not be deluded into thinking that these laws are necessary.

On the contrary, every wage earner in America must watch how his representatives and senators vote on repressive labor legislation and hold them to a strict accounting.

It makes no difference if the anti-union measures fail to become laws. The fact that

A Voice at the Polls

In launching a campaign to register its members, the Teamsters' unions of Ohio have recognized their responsibility. If the workingman is to receive a square deal at the hands of future legislatures, he must take an active hand in deciding just who is to be sent to Columbus.

As International Representative Ed Murphy has put it, "It is not a question of party affiliation but a question of the man himself. If we are to have a champion, a voice in legislative halls, we must first have a voice at the polls."

—*The Ohio Teamster.*

legislators lent support to such bills at any time marks them as the enemies of union men no longer entitled to union votes.

The high-pressure campaign that McCormick, Hearst, Kaltenborn and Close are directing at the American public may have a tendency to distract union men from the important duty of keeping an eye on their legislators at Washington. A paid press and pampered radio are making a case against all organized labor on the strike issue, in spite of the fact that the vast majority of the twelve million union workers have kept their no-strike pledge. But still the hue and cry for repressive labor legislation continues unabated. All labor unions are castigated and maligned as destructive and irresponsible bodies.

The real fuss has nothing to do with strikes. Big business has delivered shattering and almost deadly blows to our defense program. This is history by now. But big business controls a money-hungry press and radio which does its bidding, and for the present, big business seeks to destroy organized labor under the guise of patriotism.

Everyone is against strikes, but does not appreciate that organized labor keeps them at an all-time low. This accomplishment of labor is ignored and people generally are led to believe that every time a handful of workers quits for an hour or two all organized labor is to blame.

Strikes, however small, are unpopular, and big business plays on this angle not with any desire to stop strikes but rather with a firm purpose to discredit organized labor as a whole and eventually bring about its ruin.

This is the principal purpose behind the present campaign against labor unions. If legislators are foolhardy enough to be

sucked into such a scheme, then they must feel the weight of union votes at the next election.

Labor unions have surrendered for the duration the right to strike but by no means have they given up the right to vote.

Over the long pull the right to vote is far more sacred and effective than the right to strike. Now that labor really is without the strike weapon, its enemies are hopeful that a death blow can be struck. Labor's enemies in the halls of congress have to be shown that labor's voting power cannot be flaunted.

Every representative and every senator who joins the current campaign of labor-haters marks himself as unworthy to serve our American democracy. Labor's millions must see to it that such unworthy service is terminated.

With a war on, the masters of deceit and hate do not hesitate to confuse and confound the most sacred and vital issues. Organized labor's patriotism prompts it to avoid an open fight with its attackers until the more important job of winning this war is accomplished. This, however, in no way interferes with a battle of ballots.

Labor unions of America were never in a better position to know their enemies in Washington. Any legislator who will permit himself to be taken in by the outrageous exaggerations of exponents of the Harding-Coolidge regime is unmistakably an enemy of American unionism.

The labor voting record of every man in congress must be placed in the hands and homes of the organized workers of our country.

Now, more than ever before, American labor must stand by its friends and defeat its enemies.

Labor is not the only group getting the one-two now. Mr. Roosevelt is also on the receiving end of a barrage of dead cats. His enemies are making a shambles of the national scene. Anything our commander-in-chief does is wrong, to hear his foes tell it. He is damned for what he does, and damned equally for what he has not done. No President since Lincoln has suffered more at the hands of spiteful little men who are playing politics with the nation's destiny.

—Charles M. Kelley in *The Boilermakers' Journal*.

How British Nobility Fights

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

WHEN I entered the British Embassy in Washington one Sunday afternoon recently to confer with Prime Minister Churchill, I saw one of the most handsome young men it had been my privilege to look at in recent years; red cheeks, curly golden hair, cheerful, smiling countenance, about twenty-two or twenty-three years of age. He was in a wheelchair and as I looked at him I noticed that both legs were off above the knee.

He greeted me with a smile and shook my hand and said that he was happy to meet me, that his father was not present. I was stunned and shocked at what I had seen, yet thrilled with the music of the words of welcome from the young man in the wheelchair.

He was the son of Lord Halifax, and he had lost his legs in the war, across the water. His brother, who was also an aviator, had been killed a few weeks before — shot down by a German plane.

Here was the product of the nobility of England, the pure blooded, fighting type, the class that has been condemned by reformers and revolutionists.

Perhaps they deserved to be condemned in the years that are past, but in this war the so-called best blood of England has been giving everything they have, all they love in life, to preserve civilization.

They are fighting not only for the freedom of themselves and their class, but for the freedom and the future protection of the lives of the other millions throughout the world.

When I left the young man — and he was still smiling, bidding me farewell and hoping to see me again some day in England — I was depressed, somewhat upset, and could not concentrate on what I had to say to the Prime Minister.

I thought of what an ingrate I was because of my rebellion against some of the slight inconveniences I have to experience during the war.

If every member of organized labor could see this young man, who asked for no sympathy but said it was splendid to be in the fight, to help to save England and the world, we would realize how little all of us are doing in comparison to the sacrifices made by him and thousands of other families throughout the world whose loved ones have been destroyed by death or left behind crippled and mangled. Think it over.

WEAR THE EMBLEM OF OUR ORGANIZATION



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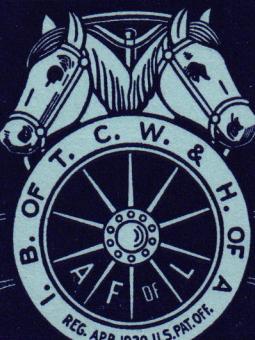
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This is the standard union service sign officially approved for all branches of the Teamsters' Union. Order them from the general secretary-treasurer.

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